REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE

FOR 1922.

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BEAR STREET,

BARNSTAPLE,

April, 1923.

To the Chairman and Members of the Barnstaple Town Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year 1922. This is once more what the Ministry of Health calls an Ordinary Report. The School Medical Officer's Report has already been presented.

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT C. JONAS.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 2,396.

Population (1922), 14,390.

Number of inhabitated houses, 3, 646.

Number of families or seperate occupiers, 4,010.

Rateable value, £58,842.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £200.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.
Births	Legitimate	256	132	124
	Illegitimate	15	8	7

Birth Rate, 18·8.
Death Rate, 12·2.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :--

From sepsis 0
Other causes 1

Deaths of infants under one year of age—

Legitimate, 16: Illegitimate, 0. Total, 16.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0
,, ,, Whooping Cough 4
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2) 0

Infant Mortality, rate 59·0
Legitimate children 62·4
Illegitimate ,, 0

Eight deaths are recorded from Influenza during the year. Four are given as caused by pneumonia, while only four notifications of this disease have been received. It is obvious that practitioners are still not remembering that this disease is now notifiable.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	38	2
Scarlet Fever	4	0
Enteric (including Paratyphoid)	1	0
Puerperal	0	0
Pneumonia	4	4
Other diseases generally notifiable :—		
Erysipelas	5	0
Tetanus	1	1
Malaria	0	0
Encephalitis lethargica	0	0
Opthalmia Neonatorum	2	0
Tuberculosis :—		
(a) Pulmonary M.	16	
F.	27	
...	—	
Total	43	
...	—	
(b) Non Pulmonary M. ...	2	
F. ...	3	
...	—	
Total ...	5	
	—	

Several cases of non notification of Tuberculosis have been investigated this year and in every case the explanation is the same that the practitioner concerned thought the case had been notified by some other Doctor.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS IN THE DISTRICT.

The year under review has been on the whole rather a light one for sickness generally, on the other hand some diseases have proved more than usually fatal

Influenza has caused eight deaths, while last year no case was fatal. Pneumonia on the other side has accounted only for four against ten deaths in 1921.

Tubercle has been more fatal, there have been fifteen deaths from respiratory T.B. and eight from other Tubercular diseases, whereas last year there were only thirteen from all T.B. causes.

SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General.

There are two district nurses in the Borough, and they are always well occupied.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

No provision, since neither of the district nurses are allowed to attend these cases.

Both are financed by private associations and not by the Local Authority.

One midwife is paid by the Local Authority through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre Committee.

There are 12 qualified midwives in the Borough. No list of these is provided to the medical men practising in the district. This ought to be done so that every medical man can refer to the list and see at once whether or not the woman engaged to attend his patients, with himself, is properly qualified. At the present time, every doctor is running some risk of being technically guilty of the offence known as covering. The Town Council might well apply to the County Council (who are the inspecting authority) for lists to be sent to all doctors.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and a School Clinic, both held at the same site in Boutport Street. Both are well patronised and there is no doubt that a good deal of benefit is derived from both. At the School Clinic, the minor ailments, such as Impetigo (which are really serious from the school point of view) are dealt with much more thoroughly than they were previously. For these small things the parents will not incur the expense of a private doctor and they think them scarcely important enough to get attendance at the Hospital or Dispensary.

The Tuberculosis and Venereal Clinics are both run at 9, Castle Street.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY, OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

No additions have been to that provided last year.

1. TUBERCULOSIS.—At Hawley.

2. MATERNITY CASES requiring operation are admitted to the North Devon Infirmary.

3. CHILDREN.—One Ward at the latter institution.

4. FEVER.—A converted gaol is in use for this purpose in the Borough. Nothing has so far been done in the matter of providing an Isolation Hospital for the combined areas.

5. SMALL POX—For Protection against this risk, the Barnstaple and the Barnstaple Rural Councils are acting together and have provided tents, and a site for their erection for the purpose of dealing with the first cases of an outbreak.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases one is available for the district. In it, all cases which are taken to the Isolation Hospital, are removed.

(b) Accidents and other cases. Use is made of the Ambulance Car, which is the property of the Barnstaple and North Devon Infirmary.

LABORATORY WORK.

The County Council undertakes and pays for all necessary examinations which are to do with infectious cases. Payment is only made when the persons for whom the examination are made are in a position to do so.

Anti-Diptheritic serum is provided free by the Authority, for the use of all practitioners in the Town to be used only for cases in the area.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS.

LOCAL ACTS.

Barnstaple Markets Act, 1852. Provisional Order, 1907, partially amending and altering above.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Amendments Act, 1890, parts 2, 3, 4 and 5. The whole of the Public Health Amendments Act, 1907, except Sections 48, 51, 68, 78, 82, 85, 91, 92, 93 and 94.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following is the report of your Sanitary Inspector :—

21, Castle Street,

Barnstaple,

April 7th, 1923.

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting my second Annual Report upon the work carried out in the Borough during the year 1922.

129 Complaints were received as to nuisances, some of which were anonymous, but in every case I made investigation, and where necessary, gave instructions for abatement, which I am pleased to state, were satisfactorily effected. There were 319 premises where nuisances were abated.

In a large number of cases defects have been remedied without the service of statutory notices. In seven instances it was found necessary, but no legal proceedings were instituted.

The drains at 51 premises were renewed on account of their defective condition, and on completion were tested. Altogether 288 tests were applied.

24 houses were inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, and where necessary, intimation notices were sent to the owners to carry out alterations and cleansing. The shortage of houses of the type suitable for the poorer classes, is very acute, and some of the existing houses are so old that nothing but re-building is really satisfactory. This, of course, is impossible until other accommodation is provided. However, improvements of a minor character have been made in many cases. Considerable alterations were carried out to six houses at Bradiford. Water Closets were provided in lieu of earth closets, sculleries and larders were built, and the yards properly cemented.

One Closing Order was issued, and in due course, notice was given to the occupiers to quit the premises. After considerable difficulty, the occupants were able to find other accommodation. The Closing Order with respect to a house in Green Lane having become operative, notice

was served on the tenant to leave. This house is in a very dilapidated condition, and a danger to the occupants. No alternative accommodation seems to be available.

The demolition of certain houses in Green Lane has been considered, but certain difficulties arose which necessitated the matter being deferred for a short period.

MEAT INSPECTION.

597 visits were made to the six Slaughter-houses, and 567 visits to Butchers and Fishmongers premises. It was not found necessary to seize any unsound or diseased meat, as in all cases, when I found any carcase or parts diseased, the same was willingly surrendered to me to prevent its being used for human consumtion.

A distinct improvement was carried out at one of the private Slaughter-houses by cementing a plinth round the walls, which enables them to be thoroughly and more easily cleansed.

New bye-laws are being drafted with regard to Slaughter-houses, and I hope that an advancement will be made which will prevent in future some of the objectionable methods adopted in the conduct of the business.

The following I had to condemn as unfit for human consumption—

34 Carcases of Beef.
7 Carcases of Pork.
4 Carcases of Mutton.
2 Carcases of Veal.
3 Fore Quarters of Beef.
3 Hind Quarters of Beef.
2 Fore Quarters of Pork.
37 Pigs Heads.
3 Cows Heads.
60 lbs. of Pork.
6 lbs. of Mutton
1466 lbs. of Offal, etc.

Beef, chiefly affected with Tuberculosis, Dropsy and Emaciation.
Mutton, Pneumonia and Emaciation.
Pork, Tuberculosis, Pleurisy and Decomposition.
Veal, Decomposition.
Cowsheds, Actinomycosis.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

Frequent visits have been made to the 50 Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds within the Borough, all of which have now been registered under the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922.

42 are registered as Retail Purveyors. 9 are registered as Wholesale Producers. One Dairyman is registered as a Wholesale Producer as well as a Retailer.

No application has been received for a licence to sell "Certified Grade A" or "Pasteured" Milk.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

During the year, 18 samples of milk, and 6 of butter were taken for Analysis. 4 samples of milk were found not to be genuine, one of which was deficient in fat to the extent of 28%. Proceedings were taken in this case, and a fine of £2 and costs was imposed. Letters of caution were sent in the other cases as the deficiencies were slight. The samples of milk which proved to be genuine were exceptionally good All the samples of butter were genuine.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

48 cases of infectious diseases were investigated, and in each case every effort was taken to discover the scource of infection. 97 rooms were fumigated, which includes those where Tubercular patients have been removed to sanatorium.

3 wards in public institutions were sprayed, and also a school where a number of cases of Diptheria had occurred.

79 lots of bedding and clothing were disinfected at your steam disinfecting station.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

125 inspections have been made of the following premises—

3	Basketmakers	12	Bakehouses
13	Boot Repairers	7	Laundries
5	Cabinetmakers	3	Monumental Masons
4	Carpenters	5	Plumbers
5	Cycle & Motor Works	2	Potteries
21	Dress and Millinery	3	Saddlers
1	Fur Making	1	Saw Mills
1	Jam Factory	20	Tailors
1	Iron Founders	5	Smiths
1	Hair Cleaning	7	Watch Makers
3	Glovemaking	2	Wheelwrights

64 outworkers premises were inspected and the necessary cleansing ordered where required.

Insufficient lavatory accommodation was found at one workshop, and two new W.C.'s were built.

The following work was also found necessary and carried out—

1 Floor of Workshop repaired.
1 New Urinal provided
2 Premises cleansed
1 Fresh Air Inlet fixed.
2 New W.C. Pans fixed.
1 New Vent Pipe fixed.
1 Drain repaired.

The Bakehouses have been limewashed or cleansed as required by the statute, at regular intervals. There are, however, some old bakehouses which need limewashing more often, and this is usually done.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

These premises, together with Marine Stores, are visited from time to time, and although complaints were received regarding smells from these premises, no appreciable nusiances were found to exist. It was found necessary to request repaving of floors, limewashing and provision of lavatory accommodation, which were carried out.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

The one common Lodging House has been visited periodically, and at no time did I find any breach of the regulations. The yard paving was re-cemented and certain minor repairs carried out.

PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACTS.

6 new licenses were granted for the storage of Petroleum spirit, making a total of 29 licenced premises.

4 Bulk Storage Tanks have been installed with petrol pumps.

1 new licence for storing Carbide of Calcium was granted, making a total of 4.

11 licences were renewed for the storage of gunpowder or mixed explosives.

WORK CARRIED UNDER THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS.

Old houses renovated	10
Drains relaid	2
Drains repaired	5
Rain pipes disconnected from drain	2
Rain pipes repaired	1
Drains cleared	1
New W.C. pans fixed	6
New W.C.'s built	6
W.C.'s repaired	1

New flush to W.C.'s	7
New gullies fixed	3
Inspection chambers built	8
Vent pipes fixed	1
New guttering fixed	8
Roofs repaired	6
Rooms cleansed	38
Rooms repaired	1
W.C.'s cleansed	4
Larders cleansed	6
Walls repaired	3
Sash cords repaired	3
Floors repaired	3
Treads of stairs repaired	1
Hand rails fixed	1
New door to W.C. fixed	1
Back parts limewashed	6
Windows made to open	7
Better light provided	9
Dampnees remedied	5
New scullery troughs fixed	9
New seulleries built	6
,, coppers built	6
Yards cemented	11
Wash houses cemented	3
Larders provided	5

DETAILS OF SANITARY OPERATIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

New sets of house drains laid	51
Drains repaired	33
,, cleared	50
Interceptors fixed	26
Inspeetion Chambers built	63
New eovers to inspection chambers	3
Fresh air inlets provided	26
Vent Shafts fixed	31
Soil pipes fixed	5
W.C. pans renewed	57
W.C.'s built	5
W.C.'s repaired	5
Gullies fixed	80
Rain pipes disconneeted from drain	3
Rain pipes repaired	3
New guttering fixed	4
New seullery wastes fixed	8

New bath wastes fixed	1
New W.C. flushing cisterns fixed	18
Cisterns repaired	20
Rooms cleansed	134
W.C.'s cleansed	31
Earth closets cleansed	1
Back parts limewashed...	17
Larders cleansed	3
New windows fixed	18
Hand rails fixed to stairs	2
Yards cemented	46
Rooms repaired	14
Larders provided	12
New grate fixed	1
Scullery troughs fixed	16
Stairs repaired	4
New floors provided	19
Wash houses cemented	6
Houses re-plastered front and back	8
New coppers fixed	2
Coppers repaired	4
Dampness remedied	8
Windows made to open	10
Roofs repaired or renewed	11
W.C. ventilated	1
Larders	1
Chimneys repaired	1
Rooms provided with better light & ventilation	4
Dust bins provided	4
Offensive accumulations removed	5
Water wasting reported	1
Overcrowding abated	4
Ash pit removed	1
New Urinal to P.H. provided	1
Manure pits covered	1
Nuisance from rats abated	3
Nuisance from fowls abated	2
Miscellaneous	9

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Visits paid	2938
Primary inspections	1360
Visits to Slaughterhouses	597
,, ,, Butchers Shops	562
,, ,, Fish Shops	24

,, ,, Piggeries	30
,, ,, Dairies	77
,, ,, Cowsheds	65
,, ,, Knackers Yard	22
,, ,, Common Lodging House	12
,, ,, Workshops	118
,, ,, Offensive Trade Premises	7
,, ,, Bakehouses	24
,, ,, Outworkers Premises	64
Tests applied to drains...	288
Letters written	209
Intimation notices. Public Health Act	59
Intimation notices. House and Town Planning Act ...	14
Verbal notices	86
Statutory notices	7

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR E. TUCKER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The staff remains as last year and consists of the Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer, both part time officers, whose salaries are paid part by the Ministry and part by the Local Authority.

The Sanitary Inspector is Mr. A. E. Tucker, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. He holds a meat inspection certificate. He has under him, one unqualified assistant. Health visitor, Miss Quare. These three are all whole time officers.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year	8
,, ,, ,, ,, as part of a municipal scheme ...	12

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection. (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	67
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	43
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3

(4) Number of houses exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 21

2. Remedy of Defects without Formal Notices.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 56

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—*Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning Act. 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 6

(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit ...
(a) by owners 6
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners 0

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders become operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close 0

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 78

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied
(a) by owners 56
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners 0

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders 3

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made 1

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit 0

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 0 0

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 0

Veneral Clinic.

Sessions are held at 9, Castle Street, for the treatment of these diseases, at the following times—

Men—Tuesday at 4 p.m.
Friday at 8 p.m.

Women—Friday at 4 p.m.

During the year two Praetitioners in the area have been added to the list of Praetitioners to whom N.A.B. can be supplied free by the Ministry.

HERBERT C. JONAS, B.M.D., B.S., Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (CIVILIANS ONLY) DURING THE YEAR 1921.

		Males.	Females.
	All Causes	89	107
1	Enteric Fever	—	—
2	Small-pox	—	—
3	Measles	—	—
4	Scarlet Fever	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	2	2
6	Diphtheria	—	2
7	Influenza	5	3
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	7	8
11	Other Tuberculosis diseases	6	2
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease	8	11
13	Rheumatic Fever	—	—
14	Diabetes	1	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	4	5
16	Heart Disease	9	15
17	Arterio-sclerosis	2	1
18	Bronchitis	5	5
19	Pneumonia all forms)	2	2
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	1
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	—	—
23	Appendicitis and Typhilitis	—	—
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	4
26	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy ... and parturition	—	1
28	Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	10	2
29	Suicide	1	—
30	Other deaths from violence	2	—
31	Other defined diseases	18	40
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	—
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Total	11	5
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Illegitimate		—
	Total Births	140	131
	Legitimate	132	124
	Illegitimate	8	7
	Population	14,390	